

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. - 48. (canceled)

49. (new): A communication apparatus which is connected to an E-mail server via a network, said communication apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit, adapted to receive an E-mail which is to be sent to said communication apparatus, stored in a mail box provided on the E-mail server;

a first obtaining unit, adapted to obtain attribute information of the E-mail stored in the mail box; and

a discriminating unit, adapted to discriminate whether or not to receive the E-mail before said receiving unit receives the E-mail, based on the attribute information obtained by said first obtaining unit,

wherein, in a case where said discriminating unit discriminates to receive the E-mail, said receiving unit receives the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated to receive, and in a case where said discriminating unit discriminates not to receive the E-mail, said receiving unit does not receive the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive, and

wherein said discriminating unit further discriminates whether or not to receive an E-mail other than the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive.

50. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 49, further comprising a controlling unit, adapted to, in a case where said discriminating unit discriminates not to receive the E-mail, send to said E-mail server an instruction for deleting from the mail box the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive.

51. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said first obtaining unit obtains size information of the E-mail as the attribute information, and said discriminating unit discriminates whether or not to receive the E-mail based on the obtained size information.

52. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 51, further comprising a second obtaining unit, adapted to obtain maximum value information of a size of the E-mail capable of being received by said receiving unit,

wherein said discriminating unit discriminates whether or not to receive the E-mail by comparing the size information of the E-mail obtained by said first obtaining unit with the maximum value information obtained by said second obtaining unit.

53. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein said controlling unit receives only header information of the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive, and stores, as communication history information, information obtained from the received header information.

54. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein

said controlling unit stores as communication history information the size information of the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive.

55. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein said controlling unit stores as communication history information a fact that the reception by said receiving unit of the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive is stopped.

56. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein said controlling unit stores as communication history information a fact that the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated not to receive is deleted.

57. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein, in a case where said receiving unit receives the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated to receive, said controlling unit stores as communication history information the information obtained from the E-mail received by said receiving unit.

58. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 49, further comprising an output unit, adapted to, in a case where said receiving unit receives the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated to receive, output the E-mail received by said receiving unit.

59. (new): A communication apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein

said controlling unit sends to the E-mail server an instruction for deleting from the mail box the E-mail that said discriminating unit has discriminated to receive, after said receiving unit receives that E-mail.

60. (new): A communication method for a communication apparatus connected to an E-mail server via a network, said method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving an E-mail which is to be sent to the communication apparatus, stored in a mail box provided on the E-mail server;

a first obtaining step, of obtaining attribute information of the E-mail stored in the mail box; and

a discriminating step, of discriminating whether or not to receive the E-mail before the E-mail is received in said receiving step, based on the attribute information obtained in said first obtaining step,

wherein, in a case where it is discriminated in said discriminating step to receive the E-mail, the E-mail is received in said receiving step, and in a case where it is discriminated in said discriminating step not to receive the E-mail, the E-mail is not received in said receiving step, and

wherein said discriminating step includes a step of further discriminating whether or not to receive an E-mail other than the E-mail that it has been discriminated not to receive in said discriminating step.

61. (new): A communication method according to Claim 60, further comprising a controlling step, of, in a case where it is discriminated in said discriminating step

not to receive the E-mail, sending to said E-mail server an instruction for deleting that E-mail from the mail box.

62. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said first obtaining step includes obtaining size information of the E-mail as the attribute information, and said discriminating step includes discriminating whether or not to receive the E-mail based on the obtained size information.

63. (new): A communication method according to Claim 62, further comprising a second obtaining step, of obtaining maximum value information of a size of the E-mail capable of being received in said receiving step,

wherein said discriminating step includes discriminating whether or not to receive the E-mail by comparing the size information of the E-mail obtained in said first obtaining step with the maximum value information obtained in said second obtaining step.

64. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said controlling step includes receiving only header information of the E-mail that it has been discriminated in said discriminating step not to receive, and storing, as communication history information, information obtained from the received header information.

65. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said controlling step includes storing as communication history information the size information of the E-mail that it has been discriminated in said discriminating step not to receive.

66. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said controlling step includes storing as communication history information a fact that the reception in said receiving step of the E-mail that it has been discriminated in said discriminating step not to receive is stopped.

67. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said controlling step includes storing as communication history information a fact that the E-mail that it has been discriminated in said discriminating step not to receive is deleted.

68. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said controlling step includes, in a case where there is received in said receiving step the E-mail that has been discriminated in said discriminating step to receive, storing as communication history information the information obtained from the E-mail received in said receiving step.

69. (new): A communication method according to Claim 60, further comprising an output step of, in a case where there is received in said receiving step the E-mail that it has been discriminated in said discriminating step to receive, outputting the E-mail received in said receiving step.

70. (new): A communication method according to Claim 61, wherein said controlling step includes sending to the E-mail server an instruction for deleting from the mail box the E-mail that it has been discriminated in said discriminating step to receive, after that E-mail is received in said receiving step.

71. (new): A program, stored in executable form in a computer-readable storage medium, for causing a computer to execute a communication method applied to a communication apparatus connected to an E-mail server via a network, said program comprising:

a receiving module, for receiving an E-mail which is to be sent to the communication apparatus, stored in a mail box provided on the E-mail server;

a first obtaining module, for obtaining attribute information of the E-mail stored in the mail box; and

a discriminating module, for discriminating whether or not to receive the E-mail before the E-mail is received by means of execution of said receiving module, based on the attribute information obtained by execution of said first obtaining module,

wherein, in a case where execution of said discriminating module results in a discrimination to receive the E-mail, the E-mail is received by execution of said receiving module, and in a case where execution of said discriminating module results in a discrimination not to receive the E-mail, the E-mail is not received by execution of said receiving module, and

wherein said discriminating module is further for discriminating whether or not to receive an E-mail other than the E-mail that it has been discriminated by means of execution of said discriminating module not to receive.

72. (new): A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to execute a communication method applied to a communication apparatus connected to an E-mail server via a network, said program comprising:

a receiving module, for receiving an E-mail which is to be sent to the communication apparatus, stored in a mail box provided on the E-mail server;

a first obtaining module, for obtaining attribute information of the E-mail stored in the mail box; and

a discriminating module, for discriminating whether or not to receive the E-mail before the E-mail is received by execution of said receiving module, based on the attribute information obtained by execution of said first obtaining module,

wherein, in a case where execution of said discriminating module results in a discrimination to receive the E-mail, the E-mail is received by execution of said receiving module, and in a case where execution of said discriminating module results in a discrimination not to receive the E-mail, the E-mail is not received by execution of said receiving module, and

wherein said discriminating module is further for discriminating whether or not to receive an E-mail other than the E-mail that it has been discriminated by means of execution of said discriminating module not to receive.